

CITY COLLEGE NEWS

SEPTEMBER 1996

GEORGE BROWN COLLEGE

VOLUME 14 NO.1

Grad employment rate climbs to 79 %

Four out of five George Brown graduates found work within a few months of leaving college.

That's the good news in a soon to be published college survey of 1995 graduates.

Surveyed six months after graduation, 59 per cent of grads reported that they were working in full- or part-time jobs that were related to their college pro-

gram. Another 20 per cent were in jobs unrelated to their studies.

That leaves just one graduate in five looking for work — a 30 per cent drop in graduate unemployment from 1992/93 when 28 per cent of grads were unable to find jobs.

Graduates of technology programs may have had the easiest time finding work: total employ-

ment averaged 89 per cent for graduates of programs in that faculty.

People looking for work in hospitality (88 per cent employment), community services (81 per cent) and health sciences (78 per cent) also did well.

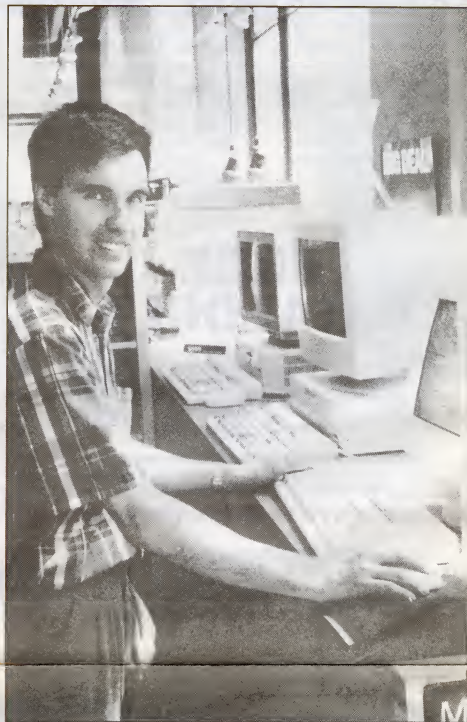
Employment among business program graduates was 70 per cent, and 66 per cent for people who graduated from program offered by the Faculty of Creative Work.

A number of programs had 100 per cent graduate employment including Jewellery Repair, Restorative Dental Hygiene, Food and Beverage Management, Air Conditioning and Refrigeration Technician, Construction Engineering Technician, Electrical Engineering Technology, and Mechanical Engineering Technician.

Graduates reported a wide range of salaries in their post-college jobs — from less than \$15,000 to more than \$40,000 a year in many programs. As in past years, graduates of the college's Dental Hygiene program reported the highest average starting salaries: from \$35,000 to more than \$40,000 per year.

The employment survey was based on telephone interviews with 926 people who graduated from George Brown full-time post-secondary programs between Sept. 1, 1994 and Aug. 31, 1995.

Copies of the complete survey — covering all programs — will be available from Student Affairs offices in mid-September.



COOKBOOKS TO COMPUTERS - New George Brown bookstore manager Sean Robinson (above) tries out one of the computers that are now for sale in the expanded, redesigned bookstore at St. James Campus. First year General Arts and Science student Carline Defreitas (below) looks for the six books that she needs for the start of classes. The store now stocks a wide range of books including general reading, fiction and cookbooks. It also has new lines of college logo clothing and accessories. Robinson joined the college in late July. He is the former manager of the bookstore at Confederation College in Thunder Bay.



"How I got my job"

"I started out studying psychology at university, and although it gave me a good theoretical knowledge, I wanted a hands-on approach to learning — that's something I knew George Brown could provide.

The college has a wonderful learning environment. My classes were small enough that the instructors were able to give us a lot of individual attention and feedback. As new topics were introduced, students felt comfortable asking questions and participating in class discussions. The classroom interaction was a real advantage, because the topics were directly related to my responsibilities at AGF Management Limited. In fact, I still refer to my class notes from time to time to deal with certain issues."



Nina Nguyen, 1995 Human Resources Management grad currently working as a Human Resources Representative at AGF Management Limited. She will appear on the cover of George Brown's 1997/98 full-time calendar, which will be available on Sept. 23 — both in print

College to host provincial advisory panel

George Brown has been chosen to host the provincial advisory panel on the future of post-secondary education.

On Oct. 17, representatives of seven Metro area universities and colleges will gather here to express their opinions to the panel which will make recommendations on the direction, structure and financing of post-secondary education in Ontario.

The George Brown session is one of only five public consultation sessions currently scheduled and the only one in Toronto.

Invited to participate are representatives of Centennial, Humber, Sheridan, and George Brown Colleges, as well as the Ontario College of Art, the University of Toronto, and Ryerson Polytechnic University.

The one to two-hour session will take the form of presentations from each institution and a roundtable discussion in which college and university representatives will talk with panel members.

The panel has been asked by the provincial government to:

1. Recommend the most appropriate way of sharing costs among students, the private sector, and the government, and ways in which this might be best achieved;
2. identify ways to promote and support co-operation between colleges and universities, and between them and the secondary school system in order to meet the changing needs of students;
3. provide advice on what needs to be done to meet the expected

levels of demand for post-secondary education, both with reference to existing public institutions and existing or proposed private institutions."

The location and time of the panel session has yet to be decided.

Panel sessions are also being planned for Thunder Bay, Sunbury, Ottawa and Hamilton.

The panel is scheduled to make its recommendations to the provincial government by December 15, 1996.

INSIDE:

- PEER TUTORING JOBS
- STUDENT IN OLYMPICS
- ALUMNI MENTORING

Peer tutoring expanding to include counselling

George Brown is expanding its peer tutoring services.

It's creating more jobs for students who want to help other students with the problems they face at college — both in and out of the classroom.

New positions of peer advisors, peer counsellors and senior peer tutors will be created this year, according to counsellor Miriam Baichman.

"Research has indicated that student helpers and facilitators can often be as effective as professional counsellors in many guidance and student service activities.

In fact, students usually tend to seek out other students for help when they are having difficulties. It has also been found that learning is more efficient when students assist each other and create their own learning climate."

Peer tutors, who help other students with academic problems, and the other new positions will earn between \$7 and \$8 an hour. Students will be trained for the positions and will have the flexibility to fit their work around their classes.

Tutoring and counselling are transferable skills that make a

great addition to the resumes of any student, Baichman says.

Students interested in becoming peer tutors or counsellors, or students who feel they need the help of tutors, should contact their campus counselling office.

The benefits of expanding the peer tutoring program extend to the college's professional counsellors, Baichman says.

"In the current financial climate, the use of peer services enables institutions to offer more programs and services to students while allowing the professional counsellors to utilize their time more fully in assisting referred students and in providing services more in line with their areas of expertise."

Alumni are mentors for current students

Last year, Desktop Composition student Michael Thomas had an idea for a book, but didn't know how to make it a reality. Then, George Brown's alumni mentoring program stepped in.

He was put in touch with Graphic Designer and alumnus Carol Berry.

"Carol helped focus my idea and consider how I could develop it," says Thomas.

The mentoring program, called Get a Connection, is starting again this September. For information call the Alumni Office at 415-2106.

FRANK SOROCHINSKY



September is synonymous with the start of a new school year. For our students, it is a time of hope, positive expectations for the months ahead and some trepidation. The efforts and contributions of George Brown staff will help to ensure that students' hopes and expectations are realized. It is important work and you should be proud of the contributions you make.

We have experienced an extraordinary level and pace of change over the past year. Very few of us have been unaffected by it. From my conversations with staff across the college, it is clear that many of you are eager to move forward, tackle the challenges and seize the opportunities. Thanks in large part to your dedication and ingenuity through the difficulties of the past year, the college is indeed ready and able to move forward. In fact it is already happening.

Late spring meetings with staff across the college were helpful to me. They helped me better understand the issues through more than one lens, provided insight as to solutions and opportunities and made me even more aware of the tremendous creativity, energy and caring of staff members.

Following those meetings, a number of initiatives — too many to mention in limited space — have been either launched or planned. All are aimed at supporting the strategic direction of the college, summarized by our strategic concept statement:

"George Brown College will lead in providing innovative applied education and training programs for adults seeking to enhance their employability in the short and long term.

Program emphasis will be in the broad sectors of hospitality-tourism, health and community services and in specific areas of business, technology and the arts.

All programs will be supported by high quality educators and trainers, and reflect the education and training needs of a large urban centre."

Examples of initiatives launched or planned are:

- A concentrated effort to ensure that our student registration process and systems provide the necessary service to students and contribute to the development of new programs and formats.
- A comprehensive College Communication Plan that, in addition to facilitating the exchange of information, will serve to build strong and

Continued on page 4.

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NEWS SHORTS

SCHOOL OF LABOUR CO-ORDINATOR WINS TOP POETRY AWARD

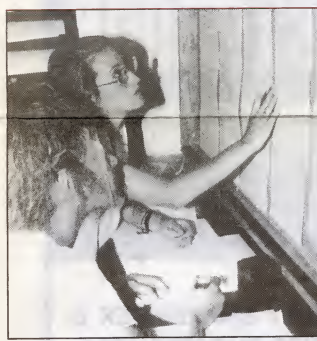
George Brown School of Labour co-ordinator Maureen Hynes has won an award for the best first book of poetry in Canada. The League of Canadian Poets gave Hynes the Gerald Lampert Memorial Award for her book *Rough Skin*, which was published in 1995. The award, which comes with a \$1,000 prize, is named after an arts administrator who was interested in new writers. Hynes has previously written a book about her teaching experiences in China called *Letters from China* and a short story in a collection called *Frictions II*. Hynes taught for many years at George Brown before becoming co-ordinator of the School of Labour, which is involved in a number of projects including labour education and educational assessment and upgrading for people who have lost their jobs in plant closures.

NOMINEES SOUGHT FOR SPECIAL NEW STAFF AWARDS

George Brown's Board of Governors is seeking staff who, in the opinion of their peers, deserve a special award for their contribution to the college over the past year. Unlike past staff awards, there is only one category and a unique criteria: the employee will have made an outstanding contribution to upholding the values and mission of the college during the past year. Awards will be presented to all nominees who, in the opinion of the awards committee, meet this criteria. Nomination forms for the special awards will be made available in the next few weeks. The nomination deadline is Thursday, Oct. 31, 1996. An awards presentation is being planned for December.

ADMINISTRATIVE APPOINTMENTS ANNOUNCED BY COLLEGE

George Brown has announced several new administrative appointments including: former York University maintenance superintendent Bashar Amer as director of physical resources; Trish Baynham as chair of the Faculty of Community Services; former Technology chair Colin Simpson as director of the Centre for Learning Innovation and Academic Development; and John Hardy as director of educational resources. *City College News* will resume running full staff changes in its October issue.



HOUSE WANTED - Child and Youth Worker student Jennifer Wilde (left) and her sister Krista Jonas check out the housing listings in the Student Affairs office at St. James in late August. Wilde is moving from Kitchener with her husband to come to George Brown and is looking for a small house to rent. "There's a good selection and they seem reasonably priced," she says.



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ALUMNI LAUNCHED - More than 100 former George Brown students — some who graduated more than 20 years ago — gathered this summer to launch a college-wide alumni association. Directors of the association (above) were chosen at the meeting, which also featured a speech by college alumnus and Board of Governors member David Singh, who is now president of Fortune Financial. Directors of the association are (from left); Rackele Passalacqua, Mario DiCarlo (treasurer), Mary Kennard (manager of alumni affairs), Amy Ramanen (secretary), Louise McGroarty (president), Beverly Thomson (vice-president), Enrique Romero, Scott Needs, Lorraine Bell, Milton Boyle, Rosemary MacDonald, Doug Johnson, and Pam Wilson. For more information about the Alumni

Fashion student boxed at Olympics

George Brown fashion student Troy Ross boxed for Canada at the Olympic Games in Atlanta this summer.

The 21-year-old light heavy-weight won several matches before being defeated in a quarter final bout with Vasilii Jirov of Kazakhstan 14-8.

Now, despite some suggestions that he turn pro, Ross says he's planning to complete his fashion design courses at George Brown this fall and then launch a career in the clothing business.

"Boxing isn't my future, but school is. So I have to go finish school," he's quoted as saying after his elimination in July.

Ross took the spring semester off so he could concentrate on training for the Olympics; now he's ready to earn his diploma and pursue his dream of starting a store that will sell his designs.

His talent for fashion and boxing come naturally, he says. His mother earns a living sewing and she taught him to sew at home in Brampton, while his father is a former Olympic boxer for Guyana.

While his buddies rib him about fashion, Ross says they now see that he's serious about it. "I think they see now that it's not just a hobby and that I'm going far with it," he's quoted as saying in Atlanta.



Troy Ross battles Vasilii Jirov in Atlanta.

Ross's career goals drew the interest of reporters and TV commentators at the Olympics, some of whom said they wished he had brought the boxing trunks and robes he's designed to Atlanta.

Sports writers were equally impressed with his performance in the ring. Jim O'Leary in the Toronto Sun said he is a "devastating counterpuncher" while Stephen Brunt in the Globe and Mail said "Of all Canada's boxers in Atlanta, he is the one whose style seems best suited for the professional ranks. He can

box. He can punch. And yesterday, in defeat, he proved he has plenty of heart."

Koreans study English here

Sixty high school English teachers from Korea spent part of their summer at George Brown upgrading their teaching skills. "The Teaching English as a Second Language (TESL) program at George Brown is very impressive," says teacher Hyangee Lee. "The instructors gave me lots of good ideas I can use in my class in Korea."

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SEPT. EVENTS

Sept. 4 - Pub, Casa Loma student lounge, noon to 5 p.m.

Sept. 5 - Pub, Student Centre, noon to 7 p.m., St. James Campus.

Sept. 6 - **Islandfest**, Centre Island, 11:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Orientation games and barbecue. Sponsored by Student Affairs and the Student Association.

Sept. 12 - **Official opening** of the St. James Student Centre, noon to 10 p.m.

Sept. 19 - **Boat cruise**, 8 p.m. Sponsored by the Student Association. For information call 415-2454.

- **Staff course:** Instructing the Adult begins. For information call the Staff Training Centre at 415-4659.

Continued from page 2.

trusting relationships across the college.

- Opening modern dental labs at 175 Kendal in support of George Brown College becoming the sole provider of Dental Technician programming in Metro. This project is made possible by a Faculty of Health Sciences partnership with Ash Temple Corporation, a major supplier of dental equipment.

- A variety of changes to space and services including student open access computer labs, and classrooms supported by audio-visual presentation equipment.

- An impressive number of Distance Education initiatives including program development and delivery.

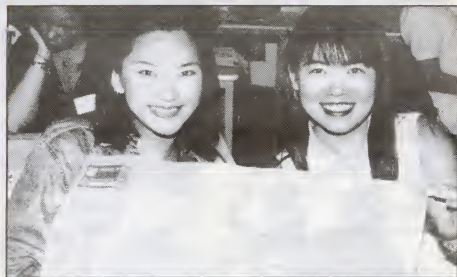
- An exciting, new specialized financial planning program initiative aimed at meeting the needs of a rapidly growing industry. This project will be made possible by a Faculty of Business and financial planning industry partnership, initiated by Fortune Financial.

- A plan to develop strategies to restore the General Education component of programs to the desired levels.

- A variety of student success and retention initiatives.

- A variety of financial and physical resource initiatives.

- The development of a George



CITY SMART - Rieko Asahara and Yuko Sato won first prize at an international student orientation day for their speed at navigating around Toronto on the TTC in a map exercise. Both students, who are from Japan, are starting a Hotel Management program in the Hospitality Centre after spending a few weeks brushing up their English at George Brown this summer. About 60 new international students — from as far away as Ukraine and the Caribbean, attended the orienta-

Brown College fund-raising effort in support of a variety of worthwhile purposes across the college.

The Ministry of Education and Training has issued a discussion paper on the future of post-secondary education and initiated a consultation process, facilitated by an appointed panel. Your college will be making a written submission and plans to meet with the panel in the month of October. The discussion paper is being widely distributed across the college. Please read it and pass on any comments to your chair, manager, dean or director. Maureen Callahan, academic vice-president, will gather all input and we will take them into account when preparing our submission.

We have much to be proud of at George Brown College. I am confident that we have, within the college, the ingredients for continued and enhanced success. As our students begin classes with hopes and dreams for their futures, I look forward to working with all of you to realize your goals and those of George Brown College.

This is the first of what will be a monthly column in City College News. If there are topics you would

like me to address in future columns, please drop me a note: in Room 588C, St. James Campus; by fax to extension 4641; or by e-mail to (fiorochi@gbrownc.on.ca).

CITY COLLEGE NEWS

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